

Amendments to the Specification

Please amend paragraph [0059] as follows:

Dark signals in a digital image sensor may contribute to significant degradation of the image quality, especially under low light or high temperature conditions. Often, it is necessary to subtract out the dark signals to minimize the degradation. However, depending on the operating conditions, different types of image processing algorithms, such as linear or nonlinear subtraction, could be used to subtract out the dark signals. In accordance with the present invention, the programmable lookup table can be used to apply different types of image processing algorithms. Specifically, the processor can program the lookup table with different sets of LUT codewords identifying different image processing algorithms. In this manner, effective dark signal subtraction can be implemented in a digital image sensor without requiring a large amount of logic circuitry. Furthermore, new image processing algorithms can be added to the image sensor after the design of the image sensor by programming the ~~processor~~ G processor and the lookup table.